intervals. Traffic is not held up for any great stretch of road. As I told you it is sectional, and notice of it is given in time, long before any such temporary closure arises.

In regard to cattle I quite agree with you that straying cattle are a nuisance to traffic ; but all the cattle in the country do not belong to Government. It is the duty of the owners of cattle to keep them tied up. If every cow in the State belonged to Government I have no doubt Government would be able to do it.

You talk of licenses of drivers as though the suspension of licenses, the endorsing of licenses, the revocation of licenses and the refusal of licenses are new things. Let me tell you that these also are matters of daily occurrence, which the Police Commissioner deals with in his control of traffic.

You talk of tolls. We all have to suffer from them. We all have to be held up sometimes. Bamboos are placed across the way. Such little inconveniences people have to put up with for the privilege of enjoying the very fine roads of Travancore.

You talk of metal stacks. I am able to tell you that the Chief Engineer has recently issued orders that all road metal should be carefully stacked either well away on the road side or in bays specially made for the purpose alongside of the roads.

**30. Prevention of the oppression of the poor by rowdies.**

MR. KRIMBELL JOSHUA (*Member, Nominated*) said that journey along the public roads particularly in rural parts was very unsafe owing to the ravages of rowdies. The police were often found to be in league with these people. More effective control on the part of the police was therefore absolutely necessary. Police arrangements had particularly to be made in markets.

DEWAN'S REPLY : Mr. Krimbell Joshua, here again you talk of wholesale and universal oppressive acts of rowdies extending all over the country and as a matter of daily occurrence everywhere. You will be helping the police a great deal in putting down such acts where they do occur, if you would bring these affairs when you discover them to the notice of the nearest Inspector of Police or Assistant Superintendent of Police as the case may be. However, I shall have your representation communicated to the Commissioner of Police and I am sure he will do whatever is needed in the matter.

**31. Agricultural needs of the Tovala taluk.**

MR. ARUMUKHA PERUMAL PILLAI MATHEVAN PILLAI (*Member, Tovala taluk*) began with saying that Government were not paying adequate attention to the conservation of the minor irrigation tanks in the Tovala taluk. Most of the tanks had been allowed by Government to be auctioned away without regard to their irrigational utility. The remaining tanks at least had to be preserved. Arrangements had also to be made for a judicious distribution of water from the channels.

The member next turned to cattle rearing, as regards which he said that what was most urgently wanted was the opening of a sufficient number of grazing grounds. Much of the degeneration of the cattle in the country could according to him be set down to want of proper grazing grounds.

The member next said that the artificial manures used by the Agricultural Department in their experimental farms were not gaining in popularity because the experimental operations were very costly. The yield from the farms was out of all proportion to the cost of the manures and the cost of demonstration. It would therefore be a better arrangement in the opinion of the member if the manures were sold by co-operative societies. It was incidentally pointed out that the Agricultural Department had failed in the treatment of plant pests.

Dealing with other measures for the fostering of agriculture in Nanjinad, the member suggested that the burden of taxation on paddy lands might be reduced, and that taxes might be remitted in seasons of failure of crops or when the lands lay fallow. Agricultural loans had also to be issued more judiciously in accordance with

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the needs of the ryots. In this connection reference was made to the Kotta measure in use in Nanjinad, the cubic contents of which, the member suggested, should be put down as 7paras instead of 8 paras 6½ edangalies as at present.

With a view to remedying the defects mentioned above the member suggested (i) the resuscitation of irrigation block boards ; (ii) the transfer of the sale of manures to co-operative societies; (iii) the institution of an enquiry into failure of crops etc. by the Agricultural Department; (iv) supply of agricultural implements, manure leaves etc. to ryots ; (v) reduction of the burden of taxation in accrodance with the varying productive capacity of lands and remission of taxes in deserving cases ; (vi) opening of more grazing grounds, and (vii) appointment of a committee to enquire into the Kotta measurement.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Arumukhaperumal Pillai Mathevan Pillai, you have covered many matters in regard to agriculture and kindred subjects.

Firstly, in regard to tank restoration or conservation I should say Government are now making it more and more difficult to have tank beds registered. Certainly they are not being given away or auctioned freely. On the other hand strict restrictions are being imposed against the conversion of tanks into cultivable lands.

You then go on to grazing grounds. There, you and I differ fundamentally. The cattle-breeding branch of the Agricultural Department is one of the most successful ventures in the State, and if there is no general improvement in cattle throughout the country, it is the fault of the people who will not be guided by the Agricultural Department but persist in going their own way. To begin with, grazing grounds are not a cattle paradise, as you imagine them to be, where cattle could be let loose and thrive and improve in breed. On the other hand grazing grounds are for the most part the source of infection and deterioration and dissemination of all that make for the degeneration of the cattle of the country. Until the people learn to care for their cattle as they care for their other valuable property, look after them, stall them well, breed them well, feed them well, and not simply let them loose on scrub-growths in the country side, the so-called grazing grounds where there is the intermingling of all sorts of degenerate cattle, diseased cattle, decrepit cattle, stunted cattle—until these grazing grounds are shut up, I do not think there is any prospect of Travancore cattle improving.

You go on to talk of manures and, apparently, you attach no value to artificial manures. The Agricultural Department is doing immense good in this direction and I can see this from other parts of Travancore where the people adopt the advice of the Agricultural Department and are following them with eagerness. But the people of Nanjinad, I know, are ultra-conservative and they stick to their old-world methods. As long as they continue like that they have got to stand the consequences.

You talk of co-operative societies being entrusted with the sale of manures. For the most part in Travancore these societies are co-operative *credit* societies. Government have not got the slightest objection to these societies acquiring as much artificial manures or natural manures as they like and selling them to the people. I do not think there is a single instance where the Government prevented a society from finding its own manure and selling it.

You talk of standardisation of measure, and then you proceed to say that the standard should be fixed as 7 paras to one kotta. This would mean that you do not want to accept the standard that has been fixed but want something else. That is another matter entirely.

### 32. Agricultural needs of the Muvattupuzha taluk.

THE REV. AVIRA JOSEPH KATHANAR (*Member, Muvattupuzha taluk*) said that agriculture was not making sufficient headway in the Muvattupuzha taluk. As means for the development of agriculture he made the following suggestions:—

(1) The swampy areas inside the reserve forests and the low-lying lands on either side of the Muvattupuzha—Devicolam road and the Kotamangalam—Pallivasal road and on the northern banks of the Periyar should be disafforested and assigned in small blocks ;

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